

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed July 15, 2004. In the office action the Examiner:

- allowed claims 39-45, 47-52;
- rejected claims 38, 46 and 53-54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. (5,778,419) and over Quattromani et al. (5,740,398).

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 38-54.

Claims Amendment

Claims 38 and 46 have been amended to include the limitation of receiving control information and associated data information in the slave memory device in a same order as generated by the master memory device. Support for this amendment is found in the Fig. 10 and on p. 25, line 14 through p. 26, line 21. This amendment does not, therefore, constitute new matter. Claims 53 and 54 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 47.

Detail Response 35 U.S.C. 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the limitation added in the previous reply did not add novelty to claims 38 and 46. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's arguments.

To further clarify claims 38 and 46 in the present application, these claims have been amended to include the limitation of the slave memory device receiving control and associated data information in the same order as generated by the master memory device. Hansen et al. have a memory element or packet buffer for re-sequencing read and write operations by setting priorities for read/write requests. However, the memory element is not in the slave memory device. As such, the re-sequencing in Hansen et al. occurs before the control information and associated data information are received by the slave memory device. Neither Hansen et al. nor Quattromani et al. teaches or suggests the claimed limitations of the present application. The combination is not, therefore, *prima facie* obvious. Removal of this ground for rejection is requested.

As amended, claims 53 and 54 depend from allowed claim 47 and are, therefore, also allowable. Removal of this ground for rejection is requested.

Prior Art Made of Record

The Examiner cites Nasserbakht (US 6,279,077) as considered pertinent to the present application. Under 37 CFR 1.111(b), "(t)he reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references" (emphasis added). It is respectfully noted that the Office Action did not apply this reference to any of the pending claims. Nevertheless, the applicant observes that the cited reference does not teach alone or in combination all the limitations of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 849-7721 if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,



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